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WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST HANGERS #397

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

(7:00 - 7:15 PM) (FEBRUARY 24, 1968) (FRIDAY) DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Ranger!

MUSIC: QUARTET, RANGERS' SONG

ANNOUNCER: The forest management policies of the United States Forest Service, generally speaking, are based upon one single phrase -- sustained yield. The phrase has no mystical portent, now, is it a confusing generalization. It means precisely what it says. It is a plan of forest management designed to produce a sustained yield of materials, jobs, and other benefits from our forest resources -- not alone for this generation and its needs, but for the future welfare and prosperity of the entire Nation.

Here we go, now, for another visit with the folks of the Pine Cone National Forest. Our friend Ranger Jim Robbins is in the office of the Ranger Station. With him, at this moment, we find Sam Robbins, his wife, and Mary Holloway, the local school teacher --

JIM: (READING II) Here's the letter I got from the Chamber of Commerce at Forestville. It says (READING) "Mr. Cornelius M. Grant will call Friday morning to investigate the situation as we have explained it to him. The outcome of your interview with him will determine the life or the death of the town of Forestville. May we express our deepest appreciation for your interest and assistance in the problem which faces us at this time. Sincerely yours, K. M. Archibald, President."

SARY: And this Mr. Grant owns timber land near Forestville?

JIM: Uh huh. About 40,000 acres.

SARY: And he's coming here to see you this afternoon?

JIM: Yes. You see, so far, he's refused flatly to make any changes in his operating plans.

CESS: But how can his land alone save Forestville, Jim?

JIM: Well, Sary, Forestville is a one industry town. Logging is their business. And the entire population depends one way or another, on the timber they cut.

CESS: I remember the time you went over there on business, Jim, and we stayed at a logging camp near Forestville. There were some of the biggest trees I ever saw in that Forest.

JIM: Not much left of them now, Sary. The logging camps have been moving farther and farther away from the town every season.

3383/ On dear, I suppose the mills have gobbled up everything
 3384/ Jim Yes, they've been clear-cutting right along. But
 3385/ that's the way the town got started. Grew up over
 3386/ night because the timber was good, and handy to the
 3387/ mills on all sides.

3388/ How many people live in Forestville, Mr. Robbins?
 3389/ 3390/ about three or four thousand, Mary. It's a fine,
 3391/ modern little city, with a good business section and
 3392/ paved streets --

3393/ They have an excellent school there, Mary.

3394/ I've heard of it. But why does the whole town depend
 3395/ on the logging companies, Mr. Robbins?

3396/ Jim Well, they have one large company and a couple of
 3397/ smaller ones operating around there. That means a
 3398/ pretty good sized payroll. That's the only industry,
 3399/ so there's never been any particular reason for other
 3400/ business to come in, except for things like stores and
 3401/ banks, and so forth. And all of them depend on the
 3402/ logging companies for their business. And at the
 3403/ present rate of cutting, the timber supply will
 3404/ last about ten years.

3405/ MARY Can't they stop cutting so much?

JIM: That would mean throwing a lot of people out of work all of a sudden, Mary. It isn't an easy business. There's got to be a gradual adjustment to a sustained yield, to put the industry on a permanent basis. Otherwise the timber industries will fold up in a few years, and the whole town along with it.

MARY: But how is the Forest Service going to be able to help them?

JIM: Well, we can't do very much unless all the town people will get together and cooperate on a long term plan. We can help 'em work out plans to make sure that all the remaining timber within reach will be managed under a sustained yield plan so that enough timber will always be left after each cutting to form the basis for another crop. And we can bring some of our National Forest timber into the picture to widen out the working circle of the area, by selling stumpage to the logging outfit in Forestville. That would help keep the mills going and the people there employed until the forests have a chance to recover from being stripped in the past. And maybe the Forest Service could acquire some of the cut-over land to protect it and help bring it back to timber growth.

BOSS: Won't Mr. Grant cooperate?

JIM: Apparently he's turned down every plan that's been offered, Boss, -- and his timberland is pretty much the key to the whole situation.

GRANT: Can't he see what it means to the people in Forestville?

WILLIAM: They sent a committee to see him. They told him the town was on the verge of complete ruin, unless they got some kind of help. Why there'll be several hundred families out of work, if the sawmills close down.

DESS: What could the people do? They might have to go for relief.

JIM: That's exactly what would happen in a lot of cases, Jess. There's no other town or industry around here that would be able to absorb all those workers and their families.

DESS: Can you do anything to help, Jim?

JIM: I hope I can, Jess, but I don't know. I think I'll show Mr. Grant the material I've collected on the history of that town called Barrington. (READING) I have some old clippings from the --

MUSIC UP AND OUT

JIM: (READING IN) I'd like to show you some old clippings I have, Mr. Grant.

GRANT: (SO, TERSE, ALMOST GRUFF) Yes?

JIM: They're from a newspaper called the Barrington Globe.

GRANT: Never heard of it.

JIM: It's not operating now.

GRANT: Folded up, eh?

JIM: -- When the town of Barrington was deserted, there wasn't any place for a newspaper any more.

GRANT: Well, I'm used to discuss the Chamber of Commerce plan for Forestville, not for a history lesson.

JIM: (LAUGHING) You're right.

GRANT: What's all this got to do with the town of Forestville?

JIM: The history of Barrington is the same as Forestville may be, unless something happens to save it.

GRANT: Where is this Barrington?

JIM: It's near the Pine Cone National Forest here, about 15 miles from Winding Creek.

GRANT: I've never heard of it.

JIM: It's been a ghost town for the last fifteen years. It was started some time back before 1900 as a logging settlement for an outfit owned by a man named C. B. Barrington. He put up a sawmill, and the town began to grow around it. In this clipping from the paper, you can see how it was proposed to lay out the new streets --

MAP OF CLIPPINGS

GRANT: Umh -- is that the actual results, or was it just a real estate blow-up?

JIM: No, the town was actually laid out on this plan with the business section along these blocks here, and a park in the center. It was a nice shopping district.

GRANT: Those pictures of the business section?

JIM: Yes, there's the bank, with stores all around the section, and the lumber sheds and sawmill north of there ---

GRANT: Hmm - Must've been a pretty fair sized town, wasn't it?

JIM: Oh huh -- About two or three thousand people, I guess.

GRANT: I see --- What's that in the middle of the park --- a tombstone?

JIM: It is now -- but when that picture was taken it was supposed to be a monument dedicated to the eternal benevolence of God and Nature.

GRANT: Dedicated to what?

JIM: Well, Mr. Grant, according to all I've heard, the citizens of Barrington were mighty happy because they had steady work and permanent incomes. I reckon some of 'em realized that all their prosperity came from the forests, and wanted to do something about it.

GRANT: So they put up this monument?

JIM: Yes. It seems they figured the forests would always provide them with prosperity. Here's the inscription they put on the base of the monument. (READING) "We, the citizens of Barrington, dedicate this monument to the generous benevolence of God, who is our eternal benefactor. And here we pledge ourselves that the city, built here shall forever reflect our gratitude, so that the Heavenly Father may never be sad as he looks upon this fair valley."

GRANT: All their fancy verses didn't seem to get them anywhere.

JIM: Mr. Grant, I want you to see the town of Barrington (FADING) as it stands today. I want you to see

MUSIC UP AND OUT

FADE IN CAR AND STOP. OPEN CAR DOOR

JIM: (FADING IN) Well, Mr. Grant here's the town of Barrington.

GRANT: (FADING IN) Haven't -- looks almost deserted. Don't see any life. There's a few poverty-stricken families still hanging on here -- too poor to go anywhere else, I guess. Most of these old houses are abandoned -- yes? They're more like skeletons than buildings. With no roofs, no doors or windows, and some of them with their walls crumbled away.

GRANT: What part of the town was this?

JIM: Remember the square in the picture I showed you -- where the monument was erected?

GRANT: Yes, yes -- the North side over where look like that might have been there the stores were

JIM: There were store buildings all around as now. That had a lot of business in Washington. But there's nothing left of it now except the front walls of those buildings you see across there.

GRANT: Did they have a railroad through here?

JIM: Yes, one of the big roads ran a line up here. See that concrete super-structure over there beyond the stores?

GRANT: Yes.

JIM: That's what's left of a big warehouse. The railroad ran past there. But the weeds have grown much covered it over by now.

GRANT: I'd say that's a large investment to be lying idle.

JIM: The capital stock of this town was probably worth a million or more at one time. Now it's not worth a nickel -- See that building on the northwest corner of the square?

GRANT: The one that says "Office?"

JIM: Yes -- It was the big office of a big logging outfit.

A lot of families got their living through the logging windows in there -- Now what's left of them are scattered -- or gone away to try and start over somewhere else.

GRANT: I SEE - And all this waste and poverty was brought about because the timber gave out?

JIM: That's right

GRANT: But I see some trees on the slopes of the valley above here --

JIM: Yes, the Forest Service planted those and we're now planting a lot more lately with the help of the CCC. But it'll be quite a few years before there'll be any timber cut around here again

GRANT: How? These hills were cut pretty clean all right

JIM: Cut-over and burned over. It's going to take a long time to bring this land back to timber production again -- Let's have a look at the town monument. You might be interested to see it.

GRANT: There doesn't seem to be much left of it

JIM: I don't know when it fell down, or what caused it

GRANT: Foundation must have given away

JIM: I think it did -- There's the base of it lying there. From the way it's tilted up, it looks like that's what happened

GRANT: What was the inscription you said they put on it?

JIM: I'll show you -- Here it is -- see?

GRANT: The letters are pretty well worn away, aren't they?

JIM: Can't read 'em.

JIM: Now- you can hardly make 'em out. Remember the inscription said -- "We, the citizens of Admiration, dedicate this monument to the numerous benefactors of God, who is our eternal benefactor. And humbly pledge ourselves that the city built here shall forever reflect our gratitude, so that the Heavenly Father may never be ashamed as he looks upon this fair valley."

GRANT: I can't make out very much of it --

JIM: No. But look -- there's three words there that seem to stand out more than all the others --

GRANT: Are there? Let me see --- yes -- "God -- is -- ashamed" --

JIM: (PAUSE) I reckon it's just a coincidence, like a lot of unexplainable things that happen -- But whatever it is, it sure fits this deserted town and the valley it lies in.

GRANT: (PAUSE) Mr. Robbins, are you sure that timber land as mine will save my town of Forestville from this -- this desolation?

JIM: We've figured it out as close as we could. Now, Jim,
we've estimated the amount of timber necessary to keep
the sawmill running and the men employed. And by
managing all the available timber in all ownerships
on a careful sustained yield plan, there's still a
chance to make the town's industry secure and
permanent. -- But we can't do it without your help.

BEAVER: It won't be any stop-gap -- to merely drag out the
life of the town?

JIM: Not if everybody works together to handle the timber
on a sustained yield basis. It won't be easy getting
readjusted to a long-term plan, though. It'll mean
some sacrifices --

GRACE: Jim, I've put everything I had into my timberland --
I've given my whole life to this timber business, and
I always figured I was entitled to get the most I could
out of it in my own life time -- But the town of
Forestville has been good to me. I don't want to see
it die. I'm going to stick by it -- You can tell
your people I'm ready to work with them on anything
they think is right.

MUSIC: UP AND OUT

